(c) if so, the details of fresh initiatives taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Keeping in view the working conditions of the CPOs, the Government has decided to rationalise their pay & rank structures. The Vth CPC has recommended the benefits of one month's additional Pay in a Year, in order to compensate difficult working conditions.

Locust Attack on Cultivation

2052. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of locust attack causing heavy damage on cultivation in the country;

(b) if so, whether the causes for such locust attack on cultivation have been detected ;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check locust attack on cultivation in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The locust swarm incursion takes place from across the western borders. Also, local build up can occur, if weather conditions are favourable and locust remains undetected in the inaccessible desert areas of Gujarat and Rajasthan.

(d) The following steps have been taken by the Government to check the locust attack in the country :

(i) The Government has set up Locust Warning Organisation (LWO) comprising its headquarters at Jodhpur, 5 circle offices at Barmer, Bikaner, Jaisalmer, Planpur and Jodhpur and 23 locust outposts.

(ii) Intensive locust surveillance and monitoring in scheduled Desert Areas of Gujarat and Rajasthan is regularly maintained.

(iii) Establishment of Wireless linkage between Jodhpur (India) and Karachi (Pakistan) is maintained from June to November each year to exchange locust situation informations.

(iv) Requisite plant protection equipment, wireless sets, vehicles for control operations have been positioned.

(v) Close coordination with Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) is being maintained to take advance action against the possibilities of any swarm incursion.

Pilferage in Drug Department in Super Bazar

2053. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some cases of pilferage in Drug Department of Super Bazar has come to the notice of the management of Super Bazar during the last two year ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the number of cases pending along with the amount involved in each case ;

(d) whether any action has been taken so far by the management to sort out the pending cases ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (e) According to information furnished by Super Bazar, Delhi no case of pilferage/stock shortage during 1995-96 has come to their notice. The reconciliation work for 1996-97 has not yet been completed by them.

Inter-State Council

2054. SHRI CHITTA BASU :
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :
SHRI P. NAMGYAL :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minsiter of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Standing Committee of the Inter-State Council recently held its meetings ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the details of the subjects discussed and the decisions taken theroon ; and

(d) the reacrtion of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (d) Since its constitutio on 5.12.1996, the Standing Committee of the Inter-State Council has held four meetings. These meetings took place on 15.1.1997, 10.5.1997, 17.6.1997 and 8.7.1997.